



February 21, 2020

## Medical Cannabis Grower and Processor License Update

The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) is providing an update on the 2019 medical cannabis grower and processor license application evaluation process. On September 26, 2019, the MMCC announced it would delay the award of pre-approvals for new grower and processor licenses in order to allow MMCC staff sufficient time to complete a preliminary investigation to verify material aspects of the highest ranking applications. Additionally, MMCC was informed that multiple applicants had raised concerns about the impartiality of the application evaluation.

In order to better examine these concerns, the MMCC has engaged an independent firm – Zuckerman Spaeder LLP – to complete an investigation into the impartiality of the application process. Specifically, the investigation will examine whether the process was completed according to the MMCC’s agreement with Morgan State University, whether the process was influenced by any improper bias, and whether the process was subject to any undue influence. If you have any information regarding bias, partiality, or undue influence in the evaluation process you may contact the independent investigator at [mmcc@zuckerman.com](mailto:mmcc@zuckerman.com) or (410) 949-1177.

While there is no established deadline by which the independent investigation will be completed, the MMCC anticipates it will take at least 45-days to complete the investigation. Upon completion, the MMCC will report on the findings of the independent investigation to the Maryland General Assembly and the public. More information will be posted in the coming days at [mmcc.maryland.gov](http://mmcc.maryland.gov) under “2019 License Application Update.”

Several applicants have contacted the MMCC for additional information about their application materials, including the overall and individual question scores. Since the award of Stage One Pre-Approvals has not been made, the underlying application materials remain confidential and may not be shared at this time. The MMCC will post on its website information about the process through which applicants may request additional details about their applications only after any award of Stage One Pre-Approvals.

Sincerely,

Will Tilburg  
Executive Director  
Director, Policy and Government Affairs  
Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission